

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) today released the following statement recognizing National Teacher Day, celebrated every year on the Tuesday of the first full week of May in honor and appreciation of America's educators

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"Today, as another school year winds to a close, we honor the men and women whose determination, caring, and seemingly infinite patience made it possible: America's teachers. Today is National Teacher Day; and while any day is a good day to thank teachers for all they do in the lives of our children, today is an excellent opportunity.

"Over long hours, for little pay, and under often-difficult conditions, our teachers have dedicated themselves to educating the next generations of Americans. If that generation is ready to meet and overcome the tremendous challenges it will face in the early years of the 21st century-we'll know whom to thank.

"Today is personally meaningful for me, as well. My late wife Judy was a teacher and an early-childhood educator, and not a day went by that I didn't see her love for children, or her passion for extending a first-class education to even the most disadvantaged.

"I like to think that many Maryland children were able to have a brighter future because of Judy's work. And now, Maryland's 24 "Judy Centers" provide early-childhood education and support services to thousands of Maryland families.

"So I hope you'll recognize a special teacher today-one that made a difference for you, or one that's making a difference for your children. We owe them our gratitude."

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